

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method of isolating a Wnt protein to produce a substantially homogeneous composition, the method comprising:

expressing a Wnt protein in a cell;

recovering said Wnt protein from a lysate of said cell or from culture medium in which said cell is grown;

separating a isolating said Wnt protein from said lysate or culture medium by affinity chromatography in the presence of a detergent sufficient to maintain solubility of said Wnt protein;

wherein biological activity of said Wnt protein is maintained in a substantially homogeneous composition.

8. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said detergent is a non-ionic or zwitterionic detergent.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said affinity chromatography is dye ligand affinity chromatography.

10. (original) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising a step of gel exclusion chromatography.

11. (original) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising a cation exchange chromatography separation.

12. (canceled).

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13. (new) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said substantially homogeneous composition comprises at least 90% by weight Wnt protein.

14. (new) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the specific activity of Wnt protein in said substantially homogeneous composition is at least 5% the specific activity of Wnt protein in said lysate or culture medium.

15. (new) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said substantially homogeneous composition comprises biologically active Wnt protein present at a concentration of at least about 5 μ g/ml.

16. (new) A composition comprising biologically active, substantially homogeneous Wnt protein isolated by the method set forth in Claim 7.